

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 ACDA-12 EB-08 /094 W
-----055600 311903Z /72

R 310824Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2444
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9534

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR CB TH
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN TRAT PROVINCE

REF: BANGKOK 4348

1. DURING VISIT MARCH 29 BY EMBOFF TO REFUGEE CAMP NEAR KLONGYAI, TRAT PROVINCE, THE THAI MOI CAMP COMMANDER SAID THAT SECURITY CONDITIONS IN THE AREA HAVE RECENTLY IMPROVED SOMEWHAT. THE AREA WAS THE SCENE OF REPEATED KHMER ROUGE ATTACKS STARTING FEB 7 (REFTEL. POINTING TO THE HIGH MOUNTAIN RIDGE ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS AWAY, THE THAI OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE KHMER ROUGE WERE STILL THERE, BUT IN RECENT DAYS THEY HAVE ONLY FIRED AND DEMOLISHED THE WINDSHIELD OF ONE PASSING CAR. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE CAMP WAS PROTECTED BY TWO BORDER POLICE PATROL STATIONS TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT OF THE CAMP. NO THAI MILITARY UNITS ARE IN THE AREA, HE SAID. FOLLOWING A PARTIAL EVACUATION LAST MONTH OF THE DISTRICT TOWN OF KLONGYAI, CITIZENS HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THE TOWN, HE
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ADDED. HE RETURNS TO HIS OWN HOME IN KLONGYAI EACH EVENING. OFFICIAL CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO THAI COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPATE OF ATTACKS.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE THE REASSURING WORDS FROM THE OFFICIAL, THE ENTIRE EXTREMELY NARROW STRIP OF THAI TERRITORY IN TRAT BELOW THE MOUNTAIN RIDGELINE OF

CAMBODIA IS HIGHLY VOLNERABLE TO ROCKET, MORTAR AND SMALL
ARMS FIRE. WHEN EMBOFF LEFT THE CAMP AT 1730, THE ROAD
FROM THE CAMP TO TRAT PROVINCE TOWN WAS COMPLETELY
AND EERILY ABSENT OF OTHER VEHICLES.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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